



## **Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department**

Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division  
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit  
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### **Zika Situational Report – Friday, May 20, 2016**

As of May 18, a total of 544 laboratory-confirmed travel-associated Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 544 cases reported, 10 were sexually transmitted, and 1 had Guillain-Barré syndrome. CDC reports that there are 157 pregnant women with any laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection within the U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Texas has 36 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 47 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 148 persons (62 percent are pregnant women) in the City of Austin and Travis County for whom clinical specimens have been submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Zika virus testing. Results have been reported for 79 persons; two persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, and two for Chikungunya. Testing results are pending for 36 persons (33 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths from Zika virus.

Staff continue to work with Austin area physicians to educate them on the process of submitting specimens to the state laboratory for Zika virus testing. Guidance related to Zika disease and pregnancy, laboratory testing, and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been prepared by the CDC. Staff are sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff are also conducting interviews of persons whose physician has submitted serum specimen to the state laboratory to collect demographic and exposure data required by DSHS. Staff also provide guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

The director and staff presented Zika information to the Central Texas City Managers Association meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

For questions or more information about ways to reduce mosquitoes around property residents can continue to call Rodent and Vector program at 3-1-1.

The ATCHHSD's Zika website for healthcare providers and the public has been updated with links to new information and resources: <http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.

Other news:

- Mexico reports 288 confirmed Zika cases.
- Last week the U.S. Senate passed a \$1.1 billion compromise measure to fund the Zika virus response; the U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$622.1 million Zika funding bill.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild and resolves within one week.

We continue to encourage people to follow travel precautions and avoid mosquito bites. Preventative measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites include draining any water around their property, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using EPA-registered insect repellents.

At this time, no additional resources are needed to address and respond to the Zika virus.

ATCHHSD staff are available 24/7 to support healthcare providers in responding to any patient with a suspect Zika virus infections. ATCHHSD has created a website for healthcare providers and the public that provide information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.